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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NUNNELEE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 16, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ALAN NUNNELEE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

TYRANT FROM THE DESERT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the aftershocks of the Egyptian revolution are being felt throughout the Middle East. The hunger for freedom has gone viral and reenergized the movement for freedom in the country of Iran. No country in that region presents more of a threat to the national security of the United States, Israel, and the world than the "tyrant from the desert" and his regime in Iran, Ahmadinejad.

Ahmadinejad says that his first nuclear missile will be sent to Tel Aviv,

Israel. He hates the United States; he hates Israel, and he has been determined to destroy the both of us. We must believe his words are more than just rhetoric. For decades, the regime has managed to quash but not eliminate a vibrant opposition movement.

In 2009, that frustration erupted for the whole world to see. Thousands of people, mainly young people, marched defiantly in the streets, protesting the fraudulent election of Ahmadinejad. The "little tyrant" is a rogue President and an illegitimate President, and the response from the regime was brutal. Police on motorbikes ran over protestors, fired tear gas, beat them with batons, tortured them, shot them, and over a hundred protestors were murdered in the 2 weeks that followed the election. But to the surprise of the world and the little tyrant from the desert, the flame of freedom was not quashed in Iran.

During that fight for self-determination, our administration was somewhat passive, believing we could work with that tyrant. But Ahmadinejad does not want peace. He's already declared war on his own people and wants war with the West. In Iran there's no freedom of expression and association, no freedom from arrest, detention or torture, and women are denied basic human rights. But there's a remarkable thing, Mr. Speaker, about repression: The more a tyrant tries to hold on to power by cracking down on the people, the faster he loses grip on that society.

So, inspired by the events in Egypt, tens of thousands of young people once again took to the streets in Iran on Monday to protest the rogue government. But the dictator is fighting back, and he will continue to do so. But the protestors want freedom in their country. Communication has been cut. However, we are seeing communication from Iran through videos and YouTube and tweets from those Iranian people. The judiciary in Iran

has already arrested 1,500 people. Two nonviolent protestors have been murdered, and the rogue parliament, along with the henchman Ahmadinejad has called for the hanging of corrupt opposition leaders. But the people of Iran still continue to protest.

The Iranian people—the Iranian resistance movement—is here to stay, whether Ahmadinejad likes it or not, and they deserve the same chance as every other freedom-loving people to rule their own country. The Iranians are freedom-loving people, and they deserve that basic human right that all peoples have of self-determination.

Today, we support—I support—the Iranians in Iran to take over their own country and to remove the dictator that is oppressing them. This fight will be difficult, but we hear the cries of the Iranian people. And those of us in Congress that support them, we are not going away any more than the Iranian people are going away, because they have the basic right of self-determination in their country.

And that's just the way it is.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. If our country continues on a course of fiscal irresponsibility and continues to pile debt on our children, we will all feel the consequences, no matter our party. It is vital that our two parties work together, Mr. Speaker, to put our fiscal house in order. So when I tell the House how disappointed I am in the proposal that is on the floor on spending for the rest of the fiscal year, I'm coming from a perspective of real worry about our debt, a defining challenge that must be seriously met. Sadly, that's not the seriousness we see in the Republicans' spending bills for the rest of this fiscal year.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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